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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

KAZAKHSTAN

SUCCESS STORY

NGOs Seek New Government Support

USAID empowers HIV-focused NGOs to receive government grants



Photo: USAID Quality Health Care Project

An NGO leader, shares her organization's experience working with government funding agencies at a USAID Quality Health Care Project roundtable

"The training conducted by the Quality Project increased my knowledge and skills related to social state funding and assisted in improving collaboration between NGO and governmental structures."

-Elena Bilokon

Head of NGO "Moi Dom" and of the Kazakhstan Network of Women Living with HIV

With the increasing strength of the Kazakh economy, international donor organizations are reducing support for many social assistance programs in the country. In response, the government of Kazakhstan has begun expanding funding opportunities for local non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

The USAID Quality Health Care Project is working with HIV prevention and treatment NGOs in Kazakhstan to help them receive a share of these funds. The Quality Project began by engaging government and NGO leaders in a process of identifying and overcoming barriers facing HIV-focused NGOs.

Then, in the spring of 2012, the Quality Project partnered with the NGO 'Zholdas' to conduct training for 90 participants from 40 NGOs. The training was designed to strengthen the NGOs' ability to access government funding and to collaborate more effectively with government partners.

As a result of this capacity-building intervention, four of the participating NGOs have already received government grants to support a variety of activities. One NGO plans to conduct operational research on stigma and discrimination directed at people living with HIV. Another group will provide support for HIV services to women who inject drugs. A third group intends to share information with the general population about the challenges faced by those living with HIV, in order to reduce discrimination.

Nura Essenniyazova, the director of the fourth successful NGO, "Orken," shared her experience. "The financial training conducted by the Quality Project and Zholdas helped us better understand how to apply for government social grants. After the training we received a grant to support vulnerable children, including those who are HIV- positive. We had applied several times before, but were unsuccessful. We were very glad to take part in this training and think it was very important for all of the NGOs who attended."